

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments is courteously solicited.

Initially the undersigned would like to thank Examiner Guarriello for the courtesies extended during an oral hearing held with the undersigned on September 9, 2003.

Applicant has cancelled originally filed claims 1-14 in favor of new claims 15-32. It is respectfully submitted that claims 15-32 patentably define over the art of record.

Independent claim 15 is drawn to a fiber reinforced moulded part. The fiber reinforced moulded part comprises a matrix formed of a resolidified product of plastic staple fibers made of a thermal plastic first material and organic fibers in the form of staple fibers of a inorganic second material embedded into the matrix. EP 630 735 does not teach, suggest or render obvious such a moulded part.

The reference cited, EP 630 735, refers to a fiber reinforced composite with a multicomponent staple fiber yarn having two different thermoplastic materials. The problem appears in combining the two thermoplastic materials because strength reducing air pockets remain between said materials (column 2, lines 44-54). The proposed solution consists to process two different thermoplastic components to form a multicomponent staple fiber yarn (column 3, lines 2-13). By definition the yarn is made by staple fibers (column 1, lines 21-23).

The fibre slip effect (see our specs, Page 8, lines 1-3) is of no meaning at EP '735 and therefore not part of the object of EP '735. In contrary the thermoplastic reinforcing fibers are drawable for forming (column 3, line 8). In addition, in examples 1-4 the yarns are processed to 3-dimensional knittings. Said knittings are not formed, as for example stretched, anymore during the pressing operation (column 11, lines 6-14). The matrix material consists of staple fibers and the reinforcing fibres are drawable thermoplastic continuous filaments (column 7/8, lines 51-31).

In accordance with the instant claim 15 the reinforcing fibres (second material) are of inorganic nature. Inorganic fibres are almost not drawable and brittle. The EP '735 offers no teaching to produce fibre reinforced parts made from woven fabrics containing inorganic reinforcing fibres, whereby the reinforcing fibres do not break. The EP '735 refers preferably to thermoplastic reinforcing fibres made of continuous filaments. Thus, EP '735 teaches away from the instant invention.

Applicant would like to add parenthetically that claims of a scope of those presented in the instant amendment have been allowed in the corresponding European priority application.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the instant application is now in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

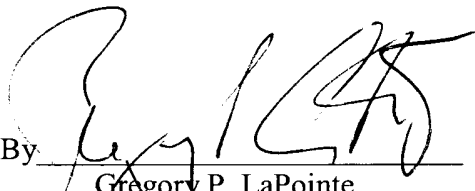
It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

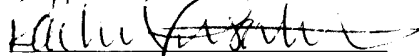
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Date: September 24, 2003

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on September 24, 2003.


Rachel Piscitelli